

REFERENCE
DEPT.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

ST. JOSEPH, MO. ❧❧❧❧❧

Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 1898 ❧❧❧



EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF
ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI.

Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 1898.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

ST. JOSEPH, MO.

OFFICERS:

President John DeClue
Vice-president..... Rev. J. L. Lawless
Secretary and Treasurer..... Charles A. Pfeiffer

DIRECTORS.

Term Expires 1898.	Term Expires 1899.	Term Expires 1900
W. H. Morlock	H. K. White	John DeClue
J. W. Atwill	Chas. A. Pfeiffer	L. M. Smith
Dr. Barton Pitts	Rev. J. L. Lawless	James A. McEvoy

COMMITTEES.

LIBRARY—Atwill, Lawless, White.
ADMINISTRATION—Pitts, Atwill, DeClue.
BUILDING AND GROUNDS—Pfeiffer, Morlock, Lawless.
FINANCE—Morlock, Pfeiffer, Smith.
BY-LAWS—White, Morlock, McEvoy.

LIBRARY STAFF.

Purd B. Wright..... Librarian
Lulu C. Senter..... Assistant Librarian

ASSISTANTS.

Annie M. Perry, Cornelia L. Rathbun, *Erle H. Merriman, †Stella M. Bush-
nell, ††Eudora Martin, ‡Miranda Olds. John Norton, Messenger.
*Resigned July 20, 1897. ††Appointed July 20, 1897.
†Resigned Feb. 24, 1898. ‡Appointed Feb. 24, 1898.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of St. Joseph, Mo.:

GENTLEMEN: Pursuant to the requirements of law, I herewith present the Eighth Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of the City of St. Joseph, Mo., for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1898.

Despite a decrease in the amount of money to be expended for the library, the year past has witnessed the largest growth in its history. While the circulation was somewhat less than last year, it is still very large for the number of volumes in the library. The expense for circulation showed a decrease of three-tenths of one cent per volume, which is gratifying in the extreme.

Realizing the need of securing more money for the library in order that the number of books might be more rapidly be increased, thus decreasing the expense incident to constant use of few volumes, it was decided by the Board of Directors to submit the question to the voters of increasing the proportion of taxes allotted the library from three-tenths to five-tenths of a mill. But \$13.40 was expended in placing the matter before the people. The newspapers of the city, with a most pleasing unanimity, supported the proposition, publishing many columns in its favor. Of 4,474 votes cast on the proposition, 3,583 were for and only 891 against. Under the law, it is necessary to secure a majority of all voters voting at the election. There being 7,899 votes polled, the proposition failed by only 362 votes. The hard political fight in progress, together with the fact that a new form of ticket was used for the first time which required no scratching from the "straight ticket" voter, militated against the library. In precincts where the library had representatives to remind people to vote on the library proposition, it carried largely. The Board had no money to employ persons to remain near all the polling booths, and the voters simply forgot to vote on the measure.

For the coming year the Library will have about the same amount of money as it had last year, the city already having made a library apportionment of \$7,200.

A summary of the reports following shows that the library contains 14,859 volumes, a net gain during the year of 1,694. Circulation for the year, 116,030. Number of card-holders, 4,352.

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. DECLUE,

President.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1898.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

GENTLEMEN: I herewith submit a detailed report of the financial operations of the Board for the fiscal year ending April 19, 1898:

SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT—RECEIPTS—SCHEDULE A.

1897.

June	8.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian.....	\$ 30 00
June	14.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian.....	15 00
July	16.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian.....	30 00
Aug.	13.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian.....	30 00
Sept.	14.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian.....	25 00
Oct.	15.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian.....	30 00
Nov.	15.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian.....	30 00
Dec.	15.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian.....	25 00

1898.

Jan.	14.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian.....	30 00
Feb.	10.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian.....	30 00
Mar.	15.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian.....	25 00
Apr.	14.	Received from Purd B. Wright, librarian.....	25 00

\$325 00

DISBURSEMENTS—SCHEDULE B.

1897.

June	8.	Deposited with City Treasurer.....	\$ 30 00
June	14.	Deposited with City Treasurer.....	15 00
July	16.	Deposited with City Treasurer.....	30 00
Aug.	13.	Deposited with City Treasurer.....	30 00
Sept.	14.	Deposited with City Treasurer.....	25 00
Oct.	15.	Deposited with City Treasurer.....	30 00
Nov.	15.	Deposited with City Treasurer.....	30 00
Dec.	15.	Deposited with City Treasurer.....	25 00

1898.

Jan.	14.	Deposited with City Treasurer.....	30 00
Feb.	10.	Deposited with City Treasurer.....	30 00
Mar.	15.	Deposited with City Treasurer.....	25 00

\$300 00

Balance in hands of treasurer, Chas. A. Pfeiffer..... 25 00

\$325 00

GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT—RECEIPTS—SCHEDULE C.

Balance in hands city treasurer May 1, 1897..... \$250 36
 Receipts from collections upon an apportionment made by
 the Common Council of \$7,500, and placed to the credit
 of the Free Public Library:

1897.

May,	Collections.....	\$3,885 00
June	Collections.....	414 72
July.	Collections.....	354 82
Aug.	Collections.....	563 92
Sept.	Collections.....	389 47
Oct.	Collections.....	379 27
Nov.	Collections.....	442 65
Dec.	Collections.....	158 88

1898.

Jan.	Collections.....	185 25
Feb.	Collections.....	240 52
March,	Collections.....	143 74
Apr.	Collections. (No report from comptroller.....)	

\$7,158 77

DISBURSEMENTS—SCHEDULE D.

1897.

May,	Vouchers.....	\$ 532 08
June,	Vouchers.....	306 16
July,	Vouchers.....	703 21
Aug.	Vouchers.....	454 65
Sept.	Vouchers.....	686 09
Oct.	Vouchers.....	668 06
Nov.	Vouchers.....	829 21
Dec.	Vouchers.....	615 40

1898.

Jan.	Vouchers.....	623 97
Feb.	Vouchers.....	733 41
March,	Vouchers.....	523 74
Apr.	Vouchers.....	953 35

\$7,629 93

GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT—RECAPITULATION—SCHEDULE E.

RECEIPTS.

Balance with city treasurer May 1, 1897.....	\$ 250 36
Collections as per schedule C.....	7,158 77
Deposits with city treasurer, as per schedule B.....	300 00
In hands of treasurer, Chas. A. Pfeiffer.....	25 00

\$7,734 13

EXPENDITURES.

Vouchers as per schedule D.....	\$7,629 93
Amount withdrawn from Library Fund by Council and not replaced	30 00
	<hr/>
	\$7,659 93
*Balance on hand.....	74 20
	<hr/>
	\$7,734 13
*In hands of city treasurer.....	\$ 49 20
In hands of board treasurer.....	25 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 74 20

SCHEDULE F.

Explanation of discrepancy between city treasurer's balance and balance shown by Chas. A. Pfeiffer, treasurer, on May 1, 1897:

Balance on hand, as per city treasurer's report, April 15, 1897.....	\$ 797 00
Deposited with city treasurer, from Special Fund, April 22, 1897.....	33 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 830 00
Paid by city treasurer, vouchers, April 22, 1897.....	579 64

Balance on hand as per Chas. A. Pfeiffer's report....\$ 250 36

The city of St. Joseph showed a balance of \$797.00 in our favor at the close of the city fiscal year, April 15, 1897.

We closed our accounts on the 1st day of May, 1897; between these dates we deposited \$33.00 with the city treasurer and issued vouchers on that officer for \$579.64, thus showing a balance on our books in our favor of \$250.36.

SCHEDULE G.

Explanation of discrepancy of amount to be collected and credited to Free Public Library and amount actually placed to its credit:

Amount apportioned	\$7,500 00
Amount collected	7,158 77
Amount collected in April not reported.	
	<hr/>
Amount uncollected.....	\$ 341 23
From the above sum collected, the Common Council transferred out of the Free Public Library account the sum of.....	\$ 250 00
And returned only the sum of.....	220 00
	<hr/>
Showing the shortage exhibited in schedule E of....	\$ 30 00

EXHIBIT FROM CITY COMPTROLLER MARCH 31, 1898—SCHEDULE H.

Balance April 15, 1897.....	\$ 797 00
Trans. added.....	220 00
Collections	7,158 77
From library.....	33 00
From Library.....	300 00
	<hr/>
	\$8,508 77
Paid	\$7,256 22
Trans. deducted.....	250 00
Balance	1,002 55
	<hr/>
	\$8,508 77
Appropriated	\$7,870 03
Transferred	250 00
Available	388 74
	<hr/>
	\$8,508 77

TREASURER CHAS. A. PFEIFFER'S ACCOUNT, SAME DATE.

Balance on hand May 15, 1897.....	\$ 250 36
Collections by city.....	7,158 77
Deposit with city treasurer.....	300 00
	<hr/>
	\$7,709 13
Paid out, vouchers.....	\$6,676 58
Balance	1,032 55
	<hr/>
	\$7,709 13

Above account calls for a balance to our credit with the City of St. Joseph of \$1,032.55, while the comptroller's statement shows a balance in our favor of \$1,002.55, the difference of \$30.00 being accounted for by the city having borrowed \$250.00 from the Library Fund and returning but \$220.00.

As shown by *Schedule C*, no report of collections in favor of the Free Public Library, on account of the apportionment of \$7,500.00, from taxes collected from April 1 to 19, 1898, the close of the city's fiscal year, was made.

According to a statement made to your treasurer by the comptroller's office, this and all other collections were, by action of the Common Council, transferred to the water service fund, as well as all remaining balances, among them the balance to the credit of the Free Public Library. We consequently lose:

Amount borrowed by the Council and not replaced, Schedule E.....	\$30 00
Balance due us on account of collection.....	49 20

\$79 20

Which amount I would recommend be asked from the new city administration, as money wrongly taken from our fund and obtained without our consent.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. A. PFEIFFER,
Treasurer.

May 1, 1898.

STATE OF MISSOURI, }
COUNTY OF BUCHANAN, } ss.

Before me, J. C. Hedenberg, a notary public in and for the county aforesaid, personally appeared Charles A. Pfeiffer, treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of the City of St. Joseph, Mo., and made oath that the facts and figures above set forth are correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Given under my hand and seal this 12th day of May, 1898.
[SEAL.] J. C. HEDENBERG,
Notary Public.

My commission expires Nov. 13, 1901.

NOTE—On the 10th inst. I was furnished a statement from the office of the city comptroller to the effect that the Library proportion of the city taxes collected from April 1 to 19, had it been apportioned, would have amounted to \$176.37, making a total of \$255.57 still due to the Library fund on the apportionment for the fiscal year 1897-98.

CHAS. A. PFEIFFER,
Treasurer.

May 11, 1898.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library, St. Joseph, Mo.

GENTLEMEN: Herewith is presented the Eighth Annual Report of the librarian, being my second.

The year just closed has been a fairly prosperous one for the library. The circulation shows a slight decrease as compared with the preceding year; a larger number of volumes have been added to the library than in any previous year, and the institution generally is in good working order, the books being in better physical condition than twelve months ago.

INVENTORY RESULTS.

An inventory of the library has just been taken, being the first thorough one in several years. It shows that during the eight years of the library's existence 78 volumes are unaccounted for. Of this number, 44 have been taken from the reference room, over which there has never been anything but a passing surveillance. Of the remainder missing, it is believed that a considerable proportion will eventually be located.

VOLUMES IN LIBRARY.

By an accurate count from the corrected shelf lists it was ascertained that the library contains 14,859 volumes, 2,562 of which were added during the year, as follows: Donations, classified, 76; periodicals, bound, 188; U. S. Government books, 283; purchases, 2,005. Withdrawals for the same period were 868, of which 841 were worn out, 17 lost and paid for, 10 missing. The net gain for the year was 1,694 volumes. Of the 14,859 volumes in the library, 11,113 are in the circulating department, 1,387 in the reference department, 902 being Poole periodicals; and 2,359 in the U. S. Government department.

Accessions and withdrawals are classified as follows:

	Accessions	Withdrawals	Net Gain
General	3	2	1
Philosophy	10	...	10
Religion	65	...	65
Sociology	70	1	69
Philology	6	...	6
Natural science.....	51	3	48
Useful arts.....	39	1	38
Fine arts.....	25	...	25
Literature	136	11	125
History	182	8	174

	Asses- sions	With- drawals	Net Gain
Travel	89	6	83
Biography	130	4	126
Bound magazines, reference.....	171	7	164
Bound magazines, circulating.....	17	9	8
Other reference works.....	98	2	96
German	26	13	13
Fiction	1,161	802	359
Government Deposits.....	283	...	283
Total	2,562	868	1,694

FINANCIAL.

Expenditures for the year were as follows, salaries and rent, owing to a change in the by-laws making the library financial year close with that of the city, are for but eleven and one-half months:

Salaries	\$3,437 98	
Rent	409 40	
Printing and Stationery.....	124 75	
Postage	18 00	
Heat	103 24	
Insurance	90 00	
Repairs	9 30	
Furniture	181 85	
Binding	621 29	
Periodicals	361 17	
Books	1,903 65	
Janitor	240 00	
Miscellaneous	129 00	\$7,629 93

LIBRARY COLLECTIONS—RECEIPTS.

Balance in librarian's hands May 1, 1897.....	\$ 14 58	
Fines	309 24	
Catalogues	61 35	
Miscellaneous	92 43	\$ 477 60

EXPENDITURES.

Deposited with treasurer.....	\$ 325 00	
*Incidental Expenses.....	145 21	
Balance forward.....	7 39	\$ 477 60

*The incidental expense account includes all postage of the library (other than printed postal cards), freight and cartage on books, delivery station expenses, the purchase of ink, pens, pencils, and like small supplies.

BORROWERS.

The number of borrowers' cards in force is 4,352, a small increase over last year. Cards expire every two years, and the number given is found by deducting from the total registration all cards expiring, together with cancellations for any cause, such as removal of holder or guarantor from city, failure to pay large fines, etc.

CIRCULATION.

The number of volumes issued for home use was 116,030, a decrease of 4,823 as compared with the year before, but an increase of 6,957 over that of the fiscal year ending 1896. The total issue, including reference issues, was 117,483, volumes issued from the circulating department for use in the reference room showing an increase of 50 per cent. No record is kept of use of reference books.

There was little change in the percentage of circulation of the different classes of books. Fiction shows a slight falling off, while a corresponding gain is noted in natural science, useful arts, literature, travel and periodicals.

Business depressions result in an increased use of the library, while general activity results otherwise. In periods of commercial quiet a large number of the unemployed naturally have more time for reading, and are liberal patrons of the free library. A return to normal conditions finds little idle time on their hands, preventing the giving of so much attention to books. An investigation among card-holders in three of our largest factories developed the fact that in 1896-7 hundreds of employes worked short hours, while during the past nine months they have worked full time or over time. The general interest in the war and the incidents leading thereto has caused many people to become more general newspaper readers, thus affecting the circulation of library books. Over one-half of the decrease in the number of books issued for home use during the year occurred during the last two months.

The average number of books issued to each card-holder during the year closing April 30, 1897, was a fraction under 28, while during the year just closed it was but 26.6. The library was open to the public 305 days, one day less than the year preceding. The number of volumes issued is equivalent to about 1.75 to each inhabitant.

Figuring the entire expense of the library (including books purchased and expenditures of every kind), against circulation, which does not take into account use of reference room books or periodicals in the reading room, the cost per volume issued was 6.5 cents, a decrease of .3 cent per volume. In view of the large expenditures for books, periodicals and furniture, this is gratifying.

The strenuous efforts in the past to improve the quality of fiction read continues, and with pleasing results. This is helped in a measure by a discontinuance of the purchase of many lower grade works, they not being replaced when worn out. This work of weeding out is in constant process.

and readers are perforce gradually led to better things. The policy pursued, I am pleased to say, has met with the hearty encouragement of the book committee and the endorsement of the board.

REFERENCE AND READING ROOMS.

The greatly increased use of the reference and reading rooms is more than pleasing. The larger number of people, young and old, coming to the former necessitating the placing of an extra table and additional chairs therein. A rearrangement of the stacks was also found necessary. The only discouraging feature is the continued loss of books. However, fewer have disappeared this year than usual, the result of the passage of an ordinance by the Common Council providing a heavy penalty for injuring or taking away without permission, any books, periodicals, etc., of the library. Other plans are in hand for preventing this loss of books and it is hoped that in the future this source of annoyance and expense will be reduced to a minimum.

More chairs were required and provided for the reading rooms as a result of the increased use, the newspapers provided by the Gazette and Herald Publishing companies, together with the periodicals purchased, being the attraction.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

The work with the schools is progressing favorably in all ways, limited only by the means at command. In addition to the placing of boxes of selected books in suburban schools, the shelves have been open to the teachers on all occasions practicable. Special reading lists are also kept up for the assistance of pupils in the high schools, including the history and literature classes, and they prove not only helpful to the young people but of great assistance to the desk attendants. In this connection, I would recommend that the rules permitting two books to be issued on one card to persons 18 years old or over be amended, so that pupils in the high schools, with the consent of their parents or guardians, may secure two books, an extra card to be issued to them as a school, non-fiction card. Had the library a sufficient number of volumes, I would recommend the entire abolishment of the age restriction.

DELIVERY STATIONS.

The delivery stations established the first of the year, on my recommendation, have fully demonstrated their need. These stations are located in the extreme northern, eastern and southern portions of the city. Station No. 1 is in the Elfred Pharmacy, 2824 St. Joseph avenue (Walker's addition), Frank S. Elfred, proprietor. Station No. 2 is in Wyatt Park Pharmacy, 2613 Lafayette street (Wyatt Park), Jacob M. Koek, manager, keeper. Station No. 3 is in Feltenstein's Pharmacy, Commercial street (South Park), Dr. D. W. Feltenstein, proprietor. Stations 1 and 2 are in branch postoffices, and

3 directly opposite one. The gentlemen named have not only given their services free in caring for the books, but have shown great interest in the library work. Mr. W. T. VanBrunt, manager of the street railway company, has given all the assistance possible, collecting and delivering the boxes of books by railway employes at a very small cost to the library. Deliveries and collections are made twice each week, books being brought to the library Tuesday and Friday mornings and returned the afternoon of the same days. On the first delivery there were but eight books; the second, eighteen; third, thirty-seven; and at the present time there are about sixty. The total number delivered to date through the stations is 1,640. This number would have been larger but for the fact that the stations are located in the same neighborhoods as are the school boxes. The cost, outside the making of the boxes, has been \$16.50. Arrangements have just been made for establishing a delivery station in the rooms of the Y. W. C. A. for the exclusive use of workers among young women. This station will entail no expense beyond providing the delivery box.

There is a pressing necessity for at least one other station, on South Sixth street. Applications have also come in from Frederick avenue and South Eleventh street for the privilege of keeping the stations when established in those localities.

APPLICATION BOXES.

To overcome the difficulty of reaching people who for any reason were diffident about coming to the library and asking for application blanks, a neat, inexpensive hanging box, made of straw board, was devised, upon which was printed the following:

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Tenth and Sylvania Sts.

BOOKS LOANED FREE.

Take one of these applications, fill it out, have some real estate owner sign as your guarantor, then bring it to the library and books will be loaned you without charge.

Library open from 8:30 a. m., to 9 p. m.

These boxes, filled with blank applications, have been placed in the larger factories, shops and stores, and the result has proven entirely satisfactory. As soon as the spring examinations in the schools are passed, a box will be placed in each school, in charge of the principal, and talks will be made to the pupils, explaining the library use, and it is hoped in this way

to get a sufficiently strong hold on the young folks during the vacation period to retain them during the school term for helpful reading.

JUVENILE ROOM.

It is daily becoming more apparent that the real work of the public library is with the youth of the country. In order to do this work effectually, especial attention must be given it. We are doing all that is possible under prevailing conditions, but until a juvenile room is provided, which the little people may feel is their own, and where they may go to the books on the selection of books such as may be chosen, would result in many more young people using the library, with great benefit to themselves, and in a short time the percentage of fiction issued from this library would show a large decrease.

LOCAL HISTORY.

Of the special work of the library, attention has been given to securing everything possible relating to the history of St. Joseph, Buchanan county and the Platte Purchase, embracing the Northwestern counties of the state. A number of volumes have been obtained, including interesting histories of Buchanan, Platte, Nodaway, Holt and Atchison counties, as well as other valuable documents. It is hoped in time to make this feature of value. This library has the only complete set of printed city ordinances known, copies of the first and second volumes printed having been secured only last week. It is pleasant to announce that of this collection, all but one volume were presented to the library.

BOOK RENEWALS BY TELEPHONE.

A departure which has seemed to please the patrons of the library was instituted last fall, it being the privilege of renewing books by telephone or postal card. The telephone has been used largely, and the plan has given great satisfaction. It causes little or no more work on the part of the attendants than would be entailed were the books or cards brought to the library. The patrons, however, are saved the walk up the hill. In renewing books by telephone, it is required that the applicant give name, number of card, number of book, and date issued. These are penciled on renewal slip blanks, printed on yellow paper, which are strapped to the book slip. These are then placed in the slip box, counted the next morning and placed back in the slip tray under the date originally issued. There is no trouble in locating them, and the yellow slip prevents them going on the fine list.

LIBRARY NOTES.

Work at the delivery desk has been simplified by adopting the one-slip system. Work is thus facilitated, and fewer charging errors occur.

A change in the rules regarding magazines, these now being issued for four instead of seven days, accounts for the increase of circulation noted in this department.

The locating of a "new book" shelf in close proximity to the delivery desk, on which all new titles are placed, has been appreciated by the patrons, as they may readily see what new books are in at any time.

During the year all the books in the circulating department have been re-labeled, in a uniform manner, the appearance of the library being thereby materially improved.

Four bulletins, two of four, one of six and one of eight pages, containing titles of new books, classified, were issued, the type being furnished, as reported last year, by the kindness of the Herald and Gazette Publishing Companies, after the lists had been published in their daily newspapers.

An effort was made to classify the German books, but, owing to changes in the staff, this work was retarded, about one-half only being accomplished. However, it is expected that this summer will witness its completion.

Government books were rearranged and are now easily accessible, some of them proving of great value. The set of Congressional Records is practically complete, 145 volumes being secured during the year.

Volumes withdrawn, which were in fit condition, were placed in the fire department of the city, county jail, poor farm and city workhouse. A number of magazines, etc., have also been placed in the rooms of the police matron.

Of the 1,556 volumes sent to the bindery, 1,386 were for rebinding, 170 being magazines. In addition to this, a large number of volumes were repaired in the library, several hundred being provided with leather backs, thus greatly prolonging their lives.

Special lists were gotten out as occasion seemed to warrant, those of books on electricity, Cuba, Alaska and the Klondike country, being the most important.

During the year Mr. Erle H. Merriman and Miss Stella Bushnell, of the library staff, resigned to go to the Buffalo library, their places being filled from the library class.

Following will be found (1) classified table of circulation, (2) list of periodicals taken, and (3) donations other than newspapers.

To the assistants in the library are due my sincere thanks in recognition of their willing and hearty co-operation in all matters of library detail.

For the cordial endorsement and support of any plans proposed for the improvement of the library or its work, for their universal kindness and interest, the members of the board of directors have placed me under many obligations.

Respectfully submitted,

PURD B. WRIGHT,

St. Joseph, Mo., May 1, 1898.

Librarian.

STATE OF MISSOURI, }
COUNTY OF BUCHANAN, } ss.

Before me, U. S. Grant Peabody, a notary public in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Purd B. Wright, librarian of the Free Public Library of the City of St. Joseph, Mo., and made oath that the facts and figures herein relating to receipts and expenditures, contents of library and books added, are correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

[SEAL.]

U. S. GRANT PEABODY,

Notary Public.

Commission expires Feb. 15, 1900.

(1)—CLASSIFIED TABLE OF CIRCULATION.

	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	Total	Per Cent
Philosophy.....	38	31	46	58	33	37	47	45	54	38	48	43	523	03.06
Religion.....	66	41	54	52	33	74	49	47	62	70	66	72	689	03.32
Sociology.....	69	52	34	45	31	30	49	28	68	73	78	61	618	01.76
Philology.....	7	3	9	2	7	6	4	9	2	1	4	6	60	01.68
Natural science.....	16	50	60	65	66	89	96	103	120	117	142	99	1062	02.71
Useful arts.....	39	24	26	37	44	39	44	43	52	51	63	62	724	03.94
Fine arts.....	61	65	58	59	50	39	57	60	85	89	68	79	770	03.03
Literature.....	338	261	249	251	226	291	287	314	376	456	389	301	3839	79.90
Travel.....	152	119	141	140	118	157	174	180	205	213	229	201	2029	03.32
Biography.....	167	138	120	120	118	166	172	217	181	169	219	167	1914	01.68
History.....	237	178	210	168	173	300	256	292	347	353	368	259	3141	02.71
Magazines.....	358	333	362	347	370	359	397	379	382	412	433	426	4578	03.94
German.....	325	246	251	234	231	296	283	336	326	315	332	318	3513	03.03
Fiction.....	7620	8013	9043	8742	7343	7060	6875	6679	771	8739	8036	7409	92740	79.90
Total.....	9508	9564	10663	10340	8801	8993	8885	8706	10141	10386	10575	9178	116030	100.
Ref. use from circulating department.....	177	37	61	33	50	138	137	135	244	223	116	99	1453
Total use.....	9685	9601	10737	10373	8851	9131	9002	8841	10385	10619	10691	9577	117483
Days open.....	25	26	26	26	25	26	25	26	25	23	27	26	305
Average daily issue.....	387	370	404	397	375	351	360	340	415	461	394	368	385
Fine notices sent.....	122	157	110	95	145	121	119	157	122	90	111	135	1469

(2) LIST OF PERIODICALS TAKEN.

QUARTERLY.

- 1 Cyclopaedia Review of Current History.

MONTHLY.

- 1 American Electrician.
1 American Teacher.
1 *American Medical Journalist.
1 Art Amateur.
2 Atlantic Monthly.
2 Blackwoods Magazine.
1 Bookman.
5 Century.
4 Cosmopolitan.
1 Cumulative Index.
2 Current Literature.
1 Eclectic Magazine.
1 Educational Review.
1 Fire and Water. (Gift.)
2 Forum.
5 Harper's.
1 Harper's Round Table.
1 Inland Printer.
1 Ladies' Home Journal.
1 Land of Sunshine. (Gift.)
1 Library Journal.
3 Lippincott's.
1 Literary News.
4 McClure's.
1 Macmillan's.
1 *Medical Herald.
1 Missionary Review of the World.
3 Munsey's.
2 New England.
1 North American Review.
1 Outing.
1 Overland.
2 Popular Science.
2 Public Libraries.
2 Review of Reviews.
3 St. Nicholas.
5 Scribner's.
1 *Vegetarian.
1 *Western Fruit Grower.

SEMI-MONTHLY.

- 1 Dial.

WEEKLY.

- 1 American. (Gift.)
1 Athenaeum, London, England.
1 *Christian Intelligencer.
1 Christian Science Journal. (Gift.)
1 Critic.

- 1 *Democrat-Lever, Plattsburg, Mo.
2 Engineering Record. (Gift.)
1 Harper's Bazar.
1 Harper's Weekly.
1 *Leader, Plattsburg, Mo.
1 Leslie's Weekly.
1 Illustrated American.
1 *Interstate Grocer, St. Louis, Mo.
1 *Journal of Commerce, St. Joseph.
1 Journal of Education.
1 *L. A. W. Bulletin and Good Roads.
1 *Ohio Merchant, Cleveland, O.
1 Outlook.
1 Parish Message. (Gift.)
1 Public Opinion.
1 Publisher's Weekly.
1 School Journal.
1 Scientific American.
1 Scientific American Supplement.
1 *Shoe and Leather Gazette, St. Louis.
1 *The Trader, (El Comerciante), Mexico, Mex.
1 *Trade Register, Seattle, Wash.
1 Western Electrician.
1 Youth's Companion.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS.

(Donated by Herald and Gazette Pub. Co's)

- Atlanta (Ga.) Journal.
Baltimore (Md.) News.
Brooklyn (N. Y.) Times.
Buffalo (N. Y.) Evening News.
Cameron (Mo.) Daily Sun.
Chicago (Ill.) Times-Herald.
Chillicothe (Mo.) Constitution.
Congressional Record (courtesy of Congressman C. F. Cochran).
Denver (Colo.) Republican.
Des Moines (Ia.) Register.
Des Moines (Ia.) Capital.
Detroit (Mich.) Journal.
Freeport (Ill.) Democrat.
Hannibal (Mo.) Journal.
Jacksonville (Fla.) Times-Union.
Jefferson City (Mo.) Tribune.
Kansas City (Kan.) Gazette.
Leavenworth (Kan.) Standard.
Leavenworth (Kan.) Times.
Los Angeles (Cal.) Express.
Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal.
Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune.

LIST OF PERIODICALS TAKEN--Cont'd.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS.

- New York Mail and Express.
Omaha (Neb.) Bee.
Ottumwa (Ia.) Courier.
Philadelphia (Pa.) Ledger.
Philadelphia (Pa.) Times.
Phoenix (Ariz.) Republican.
San Francisco (Cal.) Bulletin.
Sedalia (Mo.) Capital.
Sedalia (Mo.) Democrat.
Springfield (Mass.) Republican.
St. Joseph (Mo.) Herald. (Herald Pub. Co.)
St. Joseph (Mo.) News. (News Pub. Co.)
St. Joseph (Mo.) Volksblatt. (Pubs.)
St. Joseph (Mo.) Live Stock Journal. (Pubs.)
St. Louis (Mo.) Chronicle.
St. Louis (Mo.) Globe-Democrat.
St. Louis (Mo.) Republic.
Toledo (O.) Blade.
Washington (D. C.) Post.
West Superior (Wis.) Ledger.

LIST OF MEDICAL JOURNALS.

- Donated by the St. Joseph Academy of Medicine.
Alienist and Neurologist.
American Medical Review.
American Medico-Surgical Bulletin.
Annals of Surgery.
Archives of Pediatrics.
Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal.

- Bulletin of the American Academy of Medicine.
Chicago Medical Recorder.
Denver Medical Times.
International Journal of Surgery.
Iowa Medical Journal.
Journal of the American Medical Association.
Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases.
Kansas City Medical Index.
Kansas City Medical Record.
Kansas Medical Journal.
Langsdale's Lancet.
Matthews' Medical Quarterly.
Medical and Surgical Reporter.
Medical Bulletin.
Medical Fortnightly.
Medical Mirror.
Medical News.
Medical Record.
Medical Review.
Medicine.
New York Medical Journal.
New York Polyclinic.
North American Practitioner.
Occidental Medical Times.
Omaha Clinic.
Pacific Medical Review.
Quarterly Journal of Inebriety.
St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal.
Sanitarian.
University Medical Magazine.
Virginia Medical Monthly.
Weir's Index to the Medical Press.
Western Medical Review.
Yale Medical Journal.

(3)--DONATIONS.

NAME	Nos.	Vols.	Pamp.
Anonymous.		1	
Armour Institute, Chicago, Ill.			2
Beck, Joseph M., Philadelphia, Pa.		1	
Bender, John C., St. Joseph, Mo.		2	
Bittinger, John L., St. Joseph, Mo.		1	
Bittinger, Mrs. John L., St. Joseph, Mo. (Files Daily Herald).	4		
Boston Book Co., Boston, Mass.			1
Boston (Mass.) Public Library.			2
Bronson Library, Waterbury, Conn.			1
Brooklyn (N. Y.) Library.			
Browne, E. C., St. Joseph, Mo.	124		7
Buffalo (N. Y.) Library		1	
Bullard, Rev. Henry S., St. Joseph, Mo.		27	
Burton, James, St. Joseph, Mo.		16	
Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, Pa.			1
Carpenter's Company, Philadelphia, Pa.		2	
Cleveland (O.) Board of Education.			1
Cochran, Hon. C. F., Washington D. C.			3
Common Council, St. Joseph, Mo.		3	
Council Bluffs (Ia.) Free Public Library.			1
Denver (Colo.) City Library.			6
Detroit (Mich.) Public Library.			1
Evanston (Ill.) Free Public Library.			2
Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass.			1
Girard, Stephen, Statue Company, Philadelphia, Pa.		1	
Gloversville (N. Y.) Free Library.			1
Grand Rapids (Mich.) Public Library.			1
Hartford (Conn.) Public Library.			3
Herald Publishing Co., St. Joseph, Mo.		2	
Hopkins, Rev. John, St. Joseph, Mo.		2	
Hudson-Kimberly Publishing Co., Kansas City, Mo.		1	
Indianapolis (Ind.) Free Public Library.			1
Indian Rights Association, Philadelphia, Pa.			5
Jersey City (N. J.) Free Public Library.			6
Joseph Lodge, No. 73, I. O. B. B., St. Joseph, Mo.		5	
Journal of Commerce, St. Joseph, Mo.		2	
Kane, P. P., Chief Fire Dept. and ex-officio factory inspector, St. Joseph, Mo.		1	
Kirk, John R., Superintendent Public Instruction, Jefferson City, Mo.		1	
Labrunerie, A. E., St. Joseph, Mo.		1	
Lawrence (Mass.) Public Library.			5
Lemcke & Buechner, New York		1	
Liverpool (Eng.) Commis's of Public Libraries, Art Galleries and Museums.			2
Macdonald, C. C., St. Joseph, Mo.		1	
Martin, Miss Dora, St. Joseph, Mo.		1	
Mercantile Library, Philadelphia, Pa.			2
Mercantile Library, New York.			2
Merriman, E. H. St. Joseph, Mo.		1	
Milne, J. M.			1
Milwaukee (Wis.) Public Library.		2	
Missouri State University, Columbia, Mo.		2	
Missouri State Geologist.		11	
Morton, Dr. Daniel D., St. Joseph, Mo.			3
Nash, Robert M., St. Joseph, Mo.		16	
Newark (N. J.) Public Library.			9
New Haven, (Conn.) Free Public Library.			10
Newton (Mass.) Free Public Library.			1
New York Public Library.			10
Northwestern University, Evanston-Chicago, Ill.			1
Ohio Library Commission, Columbus, O.			1
Omaha (Neb.) Public Library.			3
Patterson, (N. J.) Free Public Library.			1
Perry, Miss Annie M., St. Joseph, Mo.		2	
Peoria (Ill.) Free Public Library.			3
Philadelphia (Pa.) Public Library.			1
Pratt Institute Library, Brooklyn, N. Y.			1
Providence (R. I.) Public Library.			6
Quincy (Ill.) Public Library.			1
Robinson, Hamline E., Maryville, Mo.		1	
St. Louis (Mo.) Free Public Library.	2		
Scranton (Pa.) Public Library.			2
Schroer, Philip, St. Joseph, Mo.		11	
Seattle (Wash.) Public Library.			1
Sedalia (Mo.) Free Public Library.			1
State Library, New York.		4	
Strong, John P., St. Joseph, Mo.	177	10	
Thurston, Hon. L. M.			1
Toole, Wm. C., St. Joseph, Mo.		1	

NAME	Nos.	Vols.	Pamp.
Trefz, Rev. E. E., St. Joseph, Mo.		1	
Tufts Library, Weymouth, Mass.			1
Warren County Literary and Reading Room Association, Monmouth, Ill.			2
Wilson, Sidney, St. Joseph, Mo.	120		
Winthrop, Robert C., Boston, Mass.		1	
Wisconsin Library Commission.			2
Worcester (Mass.) Free Public Library.			2
Wright, Purd B., St. Joseph, Mo.		5	

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

GENTLEMEN: AS required by law, the finance committee herewith submits for your consideration a report of the receipts and expenditures of the Free Public Library for the year ending April 30, 1898:

SPECIAL FUND—RECEIPTS.

Collections received from librarian.....	\$ 325 00
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DISBURSEMENTS.

Deposited with city treasurer.....	\$ 300 00
Balance in hand Board treasurer.....	25 00 \$ 325 00

GENERALD FUND—RECEIPTS.

Balance in hands city treasurer May 1, 1897.....	\$ 250 36
Collected to April 1 from apportionment of \$7,500.....	7,158 77
Deposited by Board treasurer from library collections....	300 00 \$7,709 13

EXPENDITURES.

Monthly bills as per vouchers.....	\$7,629 93
Amount withdrawn by Common Council.....	30 00
Balance in hands city treasurer.....	49 20 \$7,709 13

The library is also entitled to its proportion of the city collections from April 1 to 19, which is not included in the receipts as above. Steps will be taken to see that the library receives its proper share.

Under the revised by-laws, the library year now closes with that of the city, and no trouble will be experienced hereafter with vexatious balances, which have always been a source of trouble and annoyance.

The proposition to increase the proportion of taxes allotted the Library having failed to carry, your committee met, by appointment, the finance committee of the Common Council, asked for and was granted an apportionment of \$7,200 for the ensuing year.

The accounts of the treasurer and librarian have been checked and found to be correct.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. H. MORLOCK.
CHAS. A. PFEIFFER.
LEWIS M. SMITH.

Finance Committee.

May 1, 1898.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

GENTLEMEN: An examination of the books in the Library shows their condition to be as good as their very large use will permit. Classification of the German department progresses favorably. The relabeling in uniform manner of all volumes in the circulating department has added much to the appearance thereof, while the rearrangement of the government books will make them more readily accessible. Improvements in the reference room should be appreciated by the users thereof.

Two changes in the library force occurred during the year, Mr. Erle H. Merriman and Miss Stella Bushnell resigning to accept positions in the Buffalo library. Miss Eudora Martin and Miss Miranda Olds, were appointed from the library class to fill the vacancies.

The work of the library staff has been such as to meet our hearty approval.

Respectfully submitted,

BARTON PITTS.

J. W. ATWILL.

JNO. DECLUE.

Administration Committee.

REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

GENTLEMEN: During the year just closed 2,562 volumes were added to the library, as follows: Donations classified, 76; periodicals bound, 188; numbered 868, 841 wearing out, 17 lost and paid for, with 10 unaccounted for. The library contains at the present time 14,859 volumes, 11,113 being in the circulating department, 1,387 in the reference room, and 2,359 in the Government department. All purchases made met with the approval of the committee.

Continued care has been exercised in the selection of books, the effort being to purchase only those of the better class. Lack of means prevented the purchase of many volumes necessary for a library for students in special lines, but it is believed that the general worker may be well provided for.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. ATWILL.

H. K. WHITE.

J. L. LAWLESS.

Library Committee.

REPORT OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE.

To the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library:

GENTLEMEN: Your Committee on Building and Grounds herewith submits a report of the expenditures in the department under their charge during the year, as required by the by-laws:

Rent	\$ 409 40
Janitor	240 00
Insurance	90 00
Fuel	103 24
Furniture	181 85
Repairs	9 60
Water	40 00
Ice	4 40 \$1,078 49

The increased expenditure in the furniture account was occasioned by the necessity for book cases, tables and chairs. In this regard the library is now fairly well equipped.

During the year the committee and the librarian secured from the owners of the building needed improvements in the way painting, papering and a new hot-air furnace. Heretofore the library has been heated by stoves and grates. A saving of \$85.36 was effected in fuel.

The Board continues under obligations to the Board of Park Commissioners and Park Superintendent Rau for plants with which the grounds are made very attractive. The interest of David McKinney, the janitor, in the care of the grounds, continues.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. A. PFEIFFER.

WM. H. MORLOCK.

J. L. LAWLESS.

Building and Grounds Committee.